

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
USSN 09/673,143

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material comprising an inorganic compound [having an exfoliated layered structure] and an organic compound positioned between the layers of said inorganic compound.

9. (Three times amended) A power cable according to claim 1, wherein the at least one covering layer comprises an external covering layer constituted essentially of a nanocomposite material comprising an inorganic compound and an organic compound positioned between the layers of said inorganic compound.

11. (Amended) A method of fabricating at least one conductive layer of a power cable having a conductive core, comprising the following steps:

treating layers of an inorganic compound with an agent to render said inorganic compound compatible with an organic compound;

inserting said organic compound between said layers of said inorganic compound at a temperature higher than the temperature at which said organic compound softens or melts to exfoliate said inorganic compound; and

obtaining a material with said organic compound inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound.

Please add the following new claims:

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said material comprises a nanocomposite structure.--

14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said material has a particle size equal to 1 nanometer.--

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--15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one covering layer comprises at least one semiconductor screen, characterized in that the at least one semiconductor screen is constituted essentially of a material comprising an inorganic compound having an exfoliated layered structure and an organic compound inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound.--

--16. (New) The power cable of claim 1, wherein said inorganic compound is clay and an agent that makes said inorganic compound compatible with said organic compound is chosen from a quaternary ammonium salt, and an oxide of polyethylene and a phosphorus-containing derivative.--

--17. (New) The power cable of claim 1, wherein the at least one covering layer comprises:

an insulative material layer constituted essentially of a nanocomposite material comprising an inorganic compound having an exfoliated layered structure and an organic compound inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound; and

an external covering layer constituted essentially of said nanocomposite material.--

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